ESCAPE THE RESORT
SEE LOCAL CULTURE AT PUERTO PLATA'S IT ZONE {page 13}

GET YOUR HAPPY FEET READY
PENGUINS RULE THE BIG SCREEN {page 11}

ACE WEEK FOR RADIO HOST AND BULLYING AWARENESS

{page 3}

WINNIPEG
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Wednesday, November 16, 2011
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News worth sharing.

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ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Bright lights in city core

▶ Germaine Koh stands next to her newest art installation, called DIY Field, at Central Park. The Winnipeg artist developed the piece through the Winnipeg Arts Council's Public Art program. The work is completely interactive and the colours of the lights can be changed by passersby at will. There are a total of 38 lights in the installation.

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Radio host gets government to listen to anti-bullying idea

Host said petition for a National Bullying Awareness Week was done 'the right way' to motivate government to move quickly

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

It started as an idea to improve upon what was done last year. The next thing anyone knew, it was official.

The third week in November is now known as National Bullying Awareness Week, and while it's been around unofficially for about 10 years, this year, it was made official in about 10 days.

Local radio host Ace Burpee of Hot 103 was behind the campaign to see the week legitimized by the Canadian government.

"We started a petition, and we did a 'Twitition' (getting people to support the idea on Twitter)," said Burpee. Thousands of signatures and tweets later, the results were handed over to Manitoba education minister Nancy Allan, who went to work on it right away. Ten days after the petition was presented, it was official.

"We moved this proclamation along very quickly because we recognized the importance of raising awareness about bullying and the steps that we can take as politicians, administrators, teachers, parents, and students to make our schools safe and respectful environments," said Minister Allan in an email.

Burpee said the station is holding a contest, challenging people to come up with a video in relation to anti-bullying week. He said he's received everything from personal stories to skits to songs.

"It's unbelieveable, the quality of the stuff we're getting. People are writing these brilliant songs … it's really good. And it makes a huge difference, people telling their stories."

ASTRAL MEDIA

▶ Hot 103 morning show host Ace Burpee managed to turn a petition into an official proclamation in 10 days. Who knew government could move so fast?

Chefs to go the whole hog at BaconFest

Ace Burpee isn't just raising awareness for bullying, he's also knee-deep in a campaign to single-handedly raise $100,000 for the United Way. His latest event: BaconFest.

"I knew I wanted to do something that ended in 'fest' or 'bash'," said Burpee, "Something positive and fun."

Burpee approached local chefs Ben Sigurdson and Alex Svenne about the idea, and both signed up right away to not only cook, but help organize.

"And these are two very busy guys," said Burpee. "It's a lot of work. I couldn't believe how calm they were about it."

BaconFest has a simple premise: 12 chefs, 12 dishes involving bacon. Only 100 tickets are being sold at $75 each, with proceeds going to the United Way.

Baconfest will happen on Nov. 30.

Tickets are being sold at Astral Media, 177 Lombard Avenue on the third floor.

ELISHA DACEY

1 news

A new website offers help to young people living with a parent who suffers from dementia. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Eat, Fry, Love — starring William Shatner — sounds an offbeat note of caution about the prospect of exploding turkeys. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Boy gets 3 years jail time

A 14-year-old Manitoba boy will spend the next three years behind bars for shoving a knife through the roof of a 14-year-old girl's mouth and into her brain while she slept.

The boy, who court heard has battled alcohol and drug addiction since he was nine years old, was sentenced last week in Thompson. He was 12 at the time of the December 2009 slaying at a northern reserve about 1,000 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.

He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder earlier this year.

Judge Brian Colli imposed the maximum sentence under the Youth Criminal Justice Act of seven years custody and supervision, in addition to nearly two years of time already served.

The boy will spend the next three years in custody, then be under strict release conditions in the community for the remaining four years.

"She had a future full of promise. You've taken away this life forever," Colli told the boy.

Manitoba justice officials weren't able to apply to have the boy raised to adult court — where he would have faced much stiffer sanctions — because of his age. The victim's name can't be published under terms of the act.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local designer's game swims to iPad app top 10

Alec Holowka's Aquaria follows character Naija on an underwater journey to uncover her past

ASHLEY GABOURY
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Winnipeg-based game designer Alec Holowka can add iPad app Top Seller to his list of accomplishments.

His iPad game Aquaria, released Nov. 3, reached No. 4 overall in iPad apps and remained within the top 10 for a few days.

Holowka, the game's co-creator, said he was happy with its success in the App Store and estimates it has been downloaded 25,000 times.

Holowka said he and fellow designer Derek Yu began working on Aquaria in 2005. The game was originally released for Windows in 2007.

After Holowka spent some time playing on an iPad, he decided Aquaria's underwater setting would be well suited to the touchscreen device.

"The controls actually feel way better on it than in the original version," said Holowka.

But selling Aquaria as an iPad app has had its difficulties.

"It's way more crowded," said Holowka, referring to Apple's App Store.

"There's only one gateway to get to customers and you're competing with tons of stuff going up constantly."

Holowka is unsure where the game is currently ranked, but said it has dropped.

"But we've got some ideas up our sleeves about how to get people interested again."

ASHLEY GABOURY/FOR METRO

▶ Alex Holowka shows off Aquaria, which is available for download at Apple's iTunes app store.

ASHLEY GABOURY/METRO WINNIPEG

▶ Guitar signed by Justin Bieber.

Bieber-signed guitar given to food bank

A guitar signed by Justin Bieber is being auctioned off on eBay to raise money for Winnipeg Harvest.

Bieber gave the signed instrument as a thank you gift to Kenny Boyce, Winnipeg's "host to the stars" and manager of film and special events at city hall.

Recent news coverage on Bieber's use of food banks growing up prompted Boyce to donate the guitar.

"It was a thrill for me to receive the autographed guitar from Justin Bieber and an even bigger thrill in donating it to Winnipeg Harvest." ASHLEY GABOURY

News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. WINNIPEG JETS
2. WINNIPEG GOLDEYES
3. RCMP
4. CONTRIBUTED
5. CONTRIBUTED

1 The Winnipeg Jets and the Manitoba government are releasing a limited edition Winnipeg Jets licence plate on Dec. 12. Plates are $70 and will be available at MPI brokers. METRO

2 The Winnipeg Goldeyes' Field of Dreams Foundation is now accepting funding requests from registered children's charities through Dec. 16. METRO

3 The RCMP have started a new program in Manitoba to crack down on dangerous drivers. The newly formed teams will investigate serious traffic accidents where criminal charges are possible. METRO

4 The Be A Santa to a Senior program launched at Victoria General Hospital yesterday, which partners generous people with a senior who has a small Christmas wish. For more information visit beastantatoasenior.com. METRO

5 The City of Winnipeg's infrastructure and public works committee turned down a proposal yesterday that would allow people to plug in their vehicles if parked on the city street. METRO

Interrogation shown at honour-killing trial

- Hamed Shafia pleaded to see photos of sisters' bodies
- He's accused, along with parents, of murder

Largely unmoved by the variously gentle and aggressive attempts by detectives to get him to confess, Hamed Shafia takes particular interest when he catches sight of some photos.

Held by Det. Sgt. Michael Boyles, the photos are of his sisters' bodies, having been found dead inside a Nissan Sentra the family bought just days prior, submerged in a canal at Kingston Mills.

Boyles, of the Kingston Police Force, at first hesitates to show Hamed the photos. "Please," Hamed pleads. Boyles relents.

Boyles uses the photos during his interrogation of Hamed as he prods him to tell him what he knows — to get Hamed to explain his

LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Hamed Shafia

father's alleged role in the deaths, and his own alleged role.

Your sisters, the officer reasons, "deserve to know the truth, Hamed. They deserve better than this. They don't deserve this, Hamed.

"This wasn't for your father to decide. This was for God to decide."

Hamed seems transfixed, but shows no emotion. "We don't have Geeti," he says. The pictures only show the two other sisters.

Found dead in the canal, on June 30, 2009, were Hamed's three sisters, Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17 and 13-year-old Geeti, along with Rona Amir Mohammad, his father's first wife.

Investigators keep suggesting to Hamed that he's lying. They explain their wiretap evidence.

They tell him his cellphone signals place him in the Kingston area while the family was on a holiday in Niagara Falls just two days before the alleged murder. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Occupy. Calgary

▶ Police and bylaw officers hand out eviction notices to Occupy Calgary protesters yesterday.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters given notice

Occupiers of the small tent city in Calgary were given 24 hours to leave.

Stolen car found 27 years later

Newfoundland's provincial police service announced Monday that it had located a stolen car. The 1970 Opel had been reporting missing nearly three decades ago.

The vehicle was stolen from a garage and was reported missing by its owner in 1984. Now, 27 years later, it was found in another garage. Patrol officers, acting on information, checked the garage on Torbay Road in St. John's and confirmed the vehicle was in fact the long-missing Opel.

They are trying to determine how the vehicle wound up in the garage where it was found and where it's been since 1984.

Police were not able to elaborate on details about the car. While they have been in touch with the owner, they have not released the person's name. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Can't 'evict an idea': Occupy T.O.

A judge says Occupy Toronto protesters can remain in a downtown park while the merits of a city eviction order are argued in court.

Occupy Toronto protesters went to court yesterday after receiving the eviction notices and are requesting an injunction against the eviction.

The judge says the protesters can't be removed pending his decision following arguments on Friday, but added that no new structures can be erected in the park.

As police looked on, by-law officers threaded their way between tents and through the mud yesterday morning to put up the notices, which were quickly taken down.

The protesters said the city could not "evict an idea" whose time had come, and they said they planned to stay.

But some demonstrators said they would leave rather than risk confrontation with police and possible criminal charges.

The protesters took over the park several blocks east of Bay Street on Oct. 15.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JAMES MACDONALD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Police apprehend a protester in Toronto.

Ouster raises doubts about Occupy's future

New York City protesters gather to discuss options to sustain movement

Crackdowns against the Occupy Wall Street encampments across the country reached the epicentre of the movement yesterday, when police rousted protesters from a Manhattan park and a judge ruled that their free speech rights do not extend to pitching a tent and setting up camp for months at a time.

It was a potentially devastating setback. If crowds of demonstrators return to Zuccotti Park, they will not be allowed to bring tents, sleeping bags and other equipment that turned the area into a makeshift city of dissent.

But demonstrators pledged to carry on with their message protesting corporate greed and economic inequality, either in Zuccotti or a yet-to-be chosen new home.

"This is much bigger than a square plaza in downtown Manhattan," said Hans Shan, an organizer who was working with churches to find places for protesters to sleep. "You can't evict an idea whose time has come."

State Supreme Court Justice Michael Stallman upheld the city's eviction of the protesters after an emergency appeal by the National Lawyers Guild.

The protesters have been camped out in the privately owned park since mid-September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ New York City police officers keeps a demonstrator affiliated with the Occupy Wall Street movement from entering Zuccotti Park yesterday in New York.

For more news on Occupy Wall Street and its affiliate protests, visit metronews.ca

Judge's ruling

- Supreme Court Justice Michael Stallman denied a motion by the demonstrators seeking to be allowed back into the park with their tents and sleeping bags.
- The protesters "have not demonstrated that they have a First Amendment right to remain in Zuccotti Park, along with their tents, structures, generators and other installations to the exclusion of the owner's reasonable rights ... or to the rights to public access of others who might wish to use the space safely," Stallman wrote.
- New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he ordered the sweep because health and safety conditions and become "intolerable" in the crowded plaza.

News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
2. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
3. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
4. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
5. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Occupy Wall Street protesters clash with police at Zuccotti Park after being ordered to leave their longtime encampment in New York, early yesterday.

2 Police disperse protesters near the encampment at Zuccotti Park. At about 1 a.m. yesterday, police handed out notices from the park's owner and the city saying that the park had to be cleared.

3 A protester is arrested during a march on Broadway after police ordered demonstrators to leave the park.

4 Sanitation workers gather at the site to start the cleanup effort.

5 Two protesters and their dog, who said they have slept with other protesters for the last 56 nights, sit along a police barricade at the edge of Zuccotti Park.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cool. Reception

▶ Protester Darren Noftall holds up a sign at a National Capital Commission photo-op promoting the capital's annual winter festival, Winterlude.

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Bearly occupied

While ice-hog mascots waved, oblivious to the protester behind them, NCC marketing chief Guy Laflamme deflected questions about the impending clash between his organization and the activists in Ottawa's Confederation Park, one of the main venues for Winterlude.

News in brief

Reporters taken into custody

NYC. Journalists have been detained while covering Occupy Wall Street. N.Y. police didn't have a count of how many journalists were arrested and didn't immediately comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Experts say Feds should decriminalize euthanasia

A long-awaited experts' report on how Canada and Canadian families handle the end of life calls on the federal government to decriminalize euthanasia and assisted suicide.

And if Ottawa won't cooperate, the panel says provinces should go it alone, by making clear they won't prosecute health-care professionals involved in assisted dying.

"Assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia should be legally permitted for competent individuals who make a free and informed decision that their life is no longer worth living," says the report by the Royal Society of Canada's expert panel on end-of-life decision-making.

The report was two years in the making. It brought together a panel of experts on medicine, philosophy, ethics and health to look at what is being done in other countries, examine Canadian practices and sentiments, and formulate recommendations.

The panel was meant to be neutral, to inform rational debate and lead to solid policy in an area that is always emotional and controversial.

But the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Ontario dismissed the report before it was even public, saying at least one of the panel members is a noted euthanasia advocate.

But the panel says that Canadians are overwhelmingly in favour of finding an even-handed way to allow voluntary assisted suicide but would not permit anything involuntary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"When we further investigated the panel members it was clear that ... this report would be a pro-euthanasia propaganda report."

EUTHANASIA PREVENTION COALITION OF ONTARIO

Uganda. Unrest

▶ A Ugandan trader tries to catch fresh air through a hole in a door after police fired tear gas into her locked shop during a demonstration by traders and workers in the capital Kampala yesterday.

STEPHEN WANDERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traders protest power outages

The riot police fired tear gas to disperse the demonstrators who were protesting over what they said was an inability to do their work and business due to prolonged power outages in the East African nation.

Defectors ambush Syrian troops

Turkey, Jordan, Arab League fed up with president's response to uprising, ready to pressure him to go

UGARIT VIA APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this image from amateur video, a boy is shown throwing an object at a vehicle as an army tank burns in Daraa, Syria, on Monday.

Army defectors ambushed dozens of Syrian troops and regime forces gunned down civilians during one of the bloodiest days of the country's eight-month-old uprising, which appeared yesterday to be spiralling out of President Bashar al-Assad's control.

Up to 90 people were killed in a gruesome wave of violence Monday, activists said. The extent of the bloodshed only came to light yesterday, in part because corpses lying in the streets did not reach the morgue until daylight.

As the bloodshed spiked, al-Assad's former allies were turning on him in rapid succession — a sign of profound impatience with a leader who has failed to stem months of unrest that could explode into a regional conflagration.

Amateur video provided by activists showed a fire at the end of an alley sending up a plume of smoke, followed by an explosion. Other videos showed tanks on streets firing their cannons and crowds of people running from the sound of automatic gunfire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Support for Taliban drops in Afghanistan

Support for the Taliban among Afghans has steadily declined in recent years and people strongly back a government peace initiative, according to a survey funded in part by the U.S. government.

But the survey released yesterday by the non-profit San Francisco-based Asia Foundation also showed a population weary of insecurity and corruption, and distressed by poverty and corruption.

The survey found that an overwhelming majority of Afghan adults, 82 per cent, back reconciliation and reintegration efforts with insurgent groups. It said that the number of people who said they sympathized with the aims of Taliban had dropped to 29 per cent compared to 40 per cent last year and 56 per cent in 2009.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WINNIPEG - MANITOBA
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From what we were told in Toronto, business starts coming in from referrals, from our own customers who find out this program is for real. They usually tell all their family and friends about it. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to come in to us and drive home a nice car and rebuild their credit," adds Doug. Our staff has even told their families and friends to come down and we've notified some local companies and their employees to come down as well to take advantage of these great opportunities to rebuild your credit.
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Memo warns of illegal arms trade

Minister quick to dismiss own department's analysis on ending registry of rifles and shotguns

Scrapping the requirement to register rifles and shotguns could fuel illegal firearms trafficking across the Canadian border, warns an internal federal memo.

It says the move would weaken import controls by eliminating a requirement for border officials to verify firearms coming into the country.

"Such a loophole could facilitate unregistered prohibited and restricted firearm trafficking into and through Canada," says the declassified memo, originally marked secret.

The memo was released under the Access to Information Act to the National Firearms Association and posted along with hundreds of other pages on the organization's website.

It was prepared by Mark Potter, a senior Public Safety Department official, for an assistant deputy minister as Parliament was debating a private member's bill to kill the registry.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Law enforcement

- The Public Safety memo also says elimination of the registry would "significantly compromise" law enforcement's ability to trace firearms in Canada — for instance, linking a weapon left at a crime scene with an individual owner — or to support foreign police forces trying to do the same.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Shooting Edge range officer Patrick Deegan displays long guns at the store in Calgary.

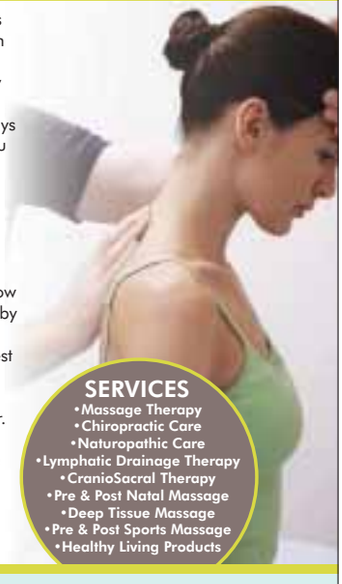
Wolseley Wellness CENTRE

We at the Wolseley Wellness Center know it's that time of year again, and we don't mean Christmas. Cold and Flu season is upon us and we would like to help you and your family stay healthy. While the tried and tested methods of avoiding illness should not be forgotten, you can always do more than wash your hands to prevent a cold or flu from slowing you down.

Staying healthy is your number one defence when it comes to cold and flu season. Excess stress can take a serious toll on your health. Massage Therapy and Lymphatic Drainage Therapy are excellent ways to unwind and get ready for whatever life is going to throw at you. Lymphatic Therapy boosts the immune system by stimulating the lymphatic system to produce more immune cells. Lymphatic Therapy can also help decongest sinuses, relieve sore throats and eliminate headaches.

If you do end up catching a cold or flu, do not despair. Made from wild Oregano, our Oil of Oregano kills viruses, bacteria, and fungi. A couple drops under the tongue or massaged into the feet is all you need.

Our multidisciplinary team of dedicated professionals are here to help you stay healthy.



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News in brief

Attack on royal website blocked

LONDON. Scotland Yard's cyber-crime unit helped fend off an attack on the official website of Britain's royal wedding in April, the division's chief said yesterday.

Det. Supt. Charlie McMurdie told a cybersecurity conference that action was taken to safeguard the site, which received 15 million hits when Prince William married Kate Middleton on April 29. Asked for more information by The Associated Press, she said her unit had "been called in" to deal with an attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Literary gold rush for author

TORONTO. Vancouver Island native Patrick deWitt says he was plagued with doubt about his comic western novel The Sisters Brothers when it first entered the wild world of publishing.

But that feeling is gone now that the story has struck book-prize gold, winning a $25,000 Governor General's Literary Award for fiction yesterday — two weeks after it landed the $25,000 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. DeWitt's novel, about two gunslinging brothers en route to California in the gold-rush era of the 1850s, was also nominated for the Man Booker Prize and the Scotiabank Giller.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nazi victims eye litigation

MIAMI. Thousands of aging Holocaust survivors in the U.S. want Congress to clear a path for them to sue European insurance companies they contend illegally confiscated Jewish life insurance policies during the Nazi era and have refused to pay an estimated $20 billion still owed.

A hearing is scheduled today on a bill that would provide the survivors with access to U.S. courts and also force companies to disclose lists of policies held by Jews before the Second World War.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murderers executed in Ohio and Florida

Two U.S. men were executed yesterday, one for killing his three sleeping sons, the other for killing a woman and her two daughters after they visited Disney World.

In Ohio, Reginald Brooks of East Cleveland who fatally shot his three sons while they slept in 1982, shortly after his wife filed for divorce, was executed in with each of his hands clenched in an obscene gesture.

In Florida, Oba Chandler was executed for killing an Ohio woman and her two teenage daughters in June 1989 as the victims returned from a dream vacation to Disney World.

Brooks died first at 2:04 p.m. local time. At 66, Brooks is the oldest person put to death since Ohio resumed executions in 1999.

In Florida, Chandler, 65, was administered a lethal injection and pronounced dead at 4:25 p.m. local time yesterday at the state prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charge per user, not for usage: CRTC

Decision reverses plan to use limited-usage pricing models on smaller Internet providers

The federal telecommunications regulator has rejected a controversial plan that would have allowed the big phone and cable companies to impose a usage-based billing model on Internet service resellers, a system that the Conservative government and many consumers had opposed.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's decision yesterday instead gives the companies a choice of either charging the smaller Internet providers a flat rate per user or selling the ISPs a specific amount of capacity on their networks.

"The net effect of it is that there will be no caps, no limitations, no metering of use for retail customers as a result of this CRTC decision," CRTC chairman Konrad von Finckenstein said.

The regulator launched its review after a social media campaign launched by the ISPs and an ensuing public backlash, as well as urging by former industry minister Tony Clement.

Under the new capacity model for billing, a small ISP buys a certain amount of network capacity from one of the big providers, and if its customers unexpectedly increase their usage, their service could slow.

"If they buy too little they have a problem with their end customers, if they buy too much they pay for something that they don't use," von Finckenstein said.

Industry Minister Christian Paradis said the government would study the decision carefully to ensure it stimulated competition and investment and allowed Canadians to choose. "Let me be clear: our government's policy will always be to encourage competition, ensure consumer choice and minimize regulation," he said in a statement last night.

Independent Internet service provider TekSavvy was pleased with the structure, but said the actual rates will increase costs for consumers. "The rates approved by the commission today will make it much harder for independent ISPs to compete," TekSavvy CEO Marc Gaudrault said. "This is an unfortunate development for telecommunications competition in Canada." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 5.08 (12,229.27)	- 0.38¢ (97.96¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ $1.23 US ($99.37 US)	$3.4040 (- 5.4¢)
	Gold
	$1,782.20 US (+ $3.80 US)

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DAD'S DOING DOUBLE DUTY

JUST SAYIN' ...

NEIL MORTON
METRO

Life is full of double standards, and here's one of mine: I can admit I protect (and sometimes micromanage) my daughters, 11 and 9, in a way I probably wouldn't if I had boys.

When I was dating my now-wife in high school — yes, high school sweethearts! — I used to snicker when she had to get home by midnight to turn off her dad's alarm clock. If she didn't beat the alarm, he said he'd go out looking for her, call police, call hospitals. I said I'd never be that kind of dad.

I am that kind of dad. More so because I have girls.

Why? Well, for one thing, I'm fully aware there are boys who will try to take advantage of them. Not all boys, but some.

There are also predators/monsters in the real world and online, enormous pressures around drugs and alcohol, and bullying (in recent weeks, a 10-year-old Illinois girl, Ashlynn Conner, hanged herself after being bullied at school). I know these things apply to boys as well, but I just think the implications are compounded for girls.

"The extent of our bad 'social media' growing up: crank calls and rolled-up pieces of paper (e.g. 'Johnny loves Sarah') passed around class. Now there's the quick distribution of voyeuristic photos from a party that go 'viral ...'"

It's not that I don't trust my daughters. It's that I know what kids are like. I was one. Kids are kids, not adults. They will make mistakes. They will make bad decisions sometimes. There are so many peer pressures.

What I tell my girls is we're instantly accessible whenever they're in a bind. Text us, call us, tweet us — we'll be there. No questions. No judgments. (Well, questions *will* come later.)

Mobile devices are a blessing for this generation, allowing kids to be much more accessible to their parents if they're in harm's way. But adding social media to the mix does create more trigger points.

The extent of our bad "social media" growing up: crank calls and rolled-up pieces of paper (e.g., "Johnny loves Sarah") passed around class. Now there's the quick distribution of voyeuristic photos from a party that go "viral" and Mean Girl tactics ("You're fat," "You're ugly," "You're Stupid") that don't end in the schoolyard but continue on Facebook.

We let our daughters use social media — there are many virtues to it — but monitor it very closely.

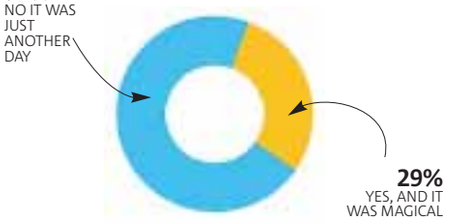
Sure kids have to have some sense of forging an identify outside their parents. We will give ours some line. But my blinders will not be on. Denial and ignorance do no good. As parents, you have to anticipate and react. Particularly with girls.

My angels won't understand all the decisions we make until they have grown into women and parents.

In the meantime, all we can do is protect them — and hopefully empower them at the same time.

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Did something special happen to you on 11-11-11?



Local tweets

- **@KaylaVIP:** Any one know how to get a hold of the #GhostBusters in #Winnipeg?
- **@LoveMeLoveMyWpg:** I've said it a million times before but the White Top restaurant on Salter is amazing. Best #fatboy in #Winnipeg! (and so friendly!)
- **@newbaconqueen:** I would rather eat a whole can of tuna than be in this class. TUNA
- **@markydoo:** Snuck in 5 games of bowling before work. Actually broke a sweat. #geektweet
- **@GordStellick:** Leafs, Phoenix (Winnipeg Jets) and St. Louis are the only three of the 21 teams in the NHL in 1979 who haven't made it to the Final once!
- **@tylerietze:** Sigh, about to watch the 2010 Men's hockey gold medal final again. Moves me every time
- **@Wpg_BlueBombers:** Happy Birthday to Blue Bombers quarterback Buck Pierce.
- **@nudge204:** The weekend of dec 3rd I have to go to thompson to teach hip hop, who wants to come keep me company lol. Yes I said Thompson.

Worth Mentioning

Individual debt is rising, savings are eroding and many young people have simply given up, staying home without looking for a job.

They are Italy's invisible poor, unseen by tourists, ignored by the country's fat-cat politicians and living in a reality that's a far cry from former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's description of an affluent country where "the restaurants are full."

Or in the words of Francesa Zuccari, who runs a soup kitchen in Rome: "There is another city out there where people can't get to the end of the month."

This is the Italy facing Mario Monti, the economics professor tapped to form an interim technocratic government after Berlusconi was forced to resign.

On the one hand, Italy's elite manufacturers are girding for an increase in luxury exports and some wealthy Italians are looking to move their money into the real-estate markets in New York, Miami and Paris. On the other, the state statistics institute says almost 14 per cent of the population are living in "relative poverty."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

photo of the day

PHOTO CHALLENGE

▶ This photo titled Prince's Island Park at Sunset was submitted to the Environment category by lindsay_j8 from Calgary.

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and worldwide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophotochallenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

Trimming the cost of a haircut

One Ohio barber has turned the price of a haircut on its head.

After a mortgage crisis, macro-unemployment, stock-market tumbles and poor consumer confidence, Gregory Burnett is only charging people what they can afford for a haircut, according to the Canton Repository newspaper.

After his usual back-to-school rush failed to show, he put up a sign that says, "TIMES ARE HARD WHAT CAN YOU PAY FOR A CUT."

He has accepted as little as $5 for a regular $12 haircut, the newspaper reports.

The owner of Old School Barber Shop said he named his shop for that mantra.

"Old school is making something out of nothing," Burnett told the Repository.

The 56-year-old has been a working man all his life by doing service jobs: shining shoes, driving cabs, and for the last 25 years he has worked as a hairstylist and barber, the Repository says.

And now that he has his own barber shop, he still shines shoes. Although it's $5, and that's non-negotiable.

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HANDOUT

▶ Happy Feet Two dances into theatres this weekend.

Much ado about penguins

From March of the Penguins to Farce of the Penguins to the return of Happy Feet, it's hard to toss a fish without hitting one at the movies But who is the most famous penguin of all?

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

At the start of the animated penguin picture Surf's Up, Cody Maverick (the voice of Transformer's star Shia LaBeouf) takes a shot at another cartoon tuxedoed bird movie.

Asked if he has any other skills besides surfing. Cody sarcastically says, "Like what? Singing and dancing?"

Of course, he's referring to Happy Feet, the Oscar winning movie about an Emperor Penguin who can't find his soul mate the usual way — through song — so he uses his other talent — tap dancing.

The musical penguins of Happy Feet shim shammed their way to huge box office in 2006, and will paddle and roll their way back into theatres again this weekend in Happy Feet Two.

For a while, it seemed like you couldn't swing a herring without hitting a penguin at the movies.

March of the Penguins, a real-life look at the migration march of Emperor penguins to their traditional breeding ground, was a left field hit in 2005. The winner for Best Documentary not only out grossed all the nominees for Best Picture that year — it took in $77 million vs. $75 million for Brokeback Mountain — but also became the second highest grossing theatrical documentary after Fahrenheit 9/11.

The musical penguins of Happy Feet shim shammed their way to huge box office in 2006, and will paddle and roll their way back into theatres again this weekend in Happy Feet Two.

It was such a huge hit it inspired an R-rated parody, Farce of the Penguins. Featuring the voices of Samuel L. Jackson, Jason Alexander and Christina Applegate, it's an R-rated spoof that imagines what sex-starved penguins might talk about on the 70 mile walk to their mating grounds.

"I am tired of the club scene," says one penguin. "So are the baby seals!" replies another.

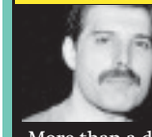
More family friendly was Madagascar, the story of four Central Park Zoo animals who get stranded on the island of Madagascar. The movie featured a large menagerie of characters, but the zoo's penguins, Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private, proved to be audience favorites. They have most of the movie's best lines — on landing in Africa one of the flightless birds says, "Africa? That ain't gonna fly!" — and were featured in a short film, The Madagascar Penguins in a Christmas Caper, a TV series and video games.

Probably the most famous penguin character in the movies is Oswald Cobblepot a.k.a. The Penguin, as played by Danny DeVito in Batman Returns.

This super villain is human, but dresses like a penguin, eats raw fish and tries to conquer Gotham with an army of specially trained penguins.

2 scene

Queen



More than a dozen Canadians are still in the running to go on a tour organized by drummer Roger Taylor of the classic rock band Queen. He organized web auditions to find a five-piece cover band and three vocalists to perform classic Queen tunes. Lead singer, Freddie Mercury, shown, died in 1991.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fourth soundtrack to blockbuster Twilight saga brings romance with sadness

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The diva vs. the baby

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Patti LaBelle

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Patti LaBelle accused of screaming at a toddler and punching its mother

If you are a baby and happen to come across singer Patti LaBelle, it's best if you pull up your diaper, grab your rattle, and crawl right out of there.

It was disclosed yesterday in a lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court that the singer screamed obscenities at a toddler and threw a punch at the baby's mother (who also happens to be a school teacher) sometime this year.

The mother, Roseanna Monk, is now suing LaBelle, who was living in her Manhattan apartment building while appearing on Broadway's Fela. Apparently, this is what happened, according to Monk's lawyer, reports The New York Daily News: The 18-month-old toddler, named Genevieve, was "scampering" around the apartment building's lobby when LaBelle, who is described as being in "full star regalia with oversize shades and a fur coat" became upset at the baby as she walked through.

"'What are you doing letting your kid run around like that?' she reportedly yelled. And then, according to the lawyer yet again, 'started screaming at my client, throwing water from a bottle at the mother's face and the baby's face.'"

As if that wasn't enough, LaBelle then took a swing at the baby's mother.

She then was shoved into a waiting car by her entourage and the baby "violently" threw-up.

So far, LaBelle hasn't responded to the allegations.

She's probably too busy not-babysitting to do so.

And in other baby news...

Christina Applegate might not want to have LaBelle as a guest star on her TV show Up All Night anytime soon.

As she tells The View, having her nine-month-old daughter Sadie around was a priority when deciding to do the new NBC show.

"My whole thing was, 'I'm not doing this unless I can bring her.' So they had to build me a room for her and it's got her toys and a crib and she takes her naps there," the actress explained. "That's called a crazy mother who said, 'No, I'm not doing anything unless I can be with my baby.'"

Celebrity tweets

@AlecBaldwin

Bloomberg's NY is no place for the 1st amendment. Bloomberg serves Wall Street, now and forever. And Wall Street cannot handle free speech.

@rainnwilson

Boston drivers: there's a thing called the 'Golden Rule'. Read up on it. Get back to me.

@JimCarrey

You know who I hate? Judgemental people. In my opinion they are worthless scum.

Jay-Z: I'll change our baby's diapers

Jay-Z says his own experience of his father leaving when he was 11 had a lasting impact on him.

"If your dad died before you were born, yeah, it hurts, but it's not like you had a connection with something that was real," Jay-Z tells GQ magazine.

"My dad was such a good dad that when he left, he left a huge scar. He was my superhero."

The rapper is currently expecting a daughter with wife Beyoncé Knowles, and his main priority is being there for his child.

"Providing — that's not love. Being there — that's more important," he says.

And does being there mean changing diapers once the little girl arrives?

"Of course, of course," he says. "One hundred per cent." METRO

Twilight cast wasn't tight: Nikki Reed

With the first part of the Twilight finale hitting theatres, actress Nikki Reed is opening up about the less-than-familial atmosphere amongst the cast.

"In the beginning, it was innocent and fun, and we were like one big happy family.

"It was like being at sleep-away camp," Reed tells Seventeen magazine.

"Success came along and changed the dynamic. We're not all best friends, and we're not all going to hang out together after the final movie is done."

And watching her co-stars' relationships fall apart once filming stopped wasn't the easiest thing.

"It was very, very sad. Let's just leave it at that," she says.

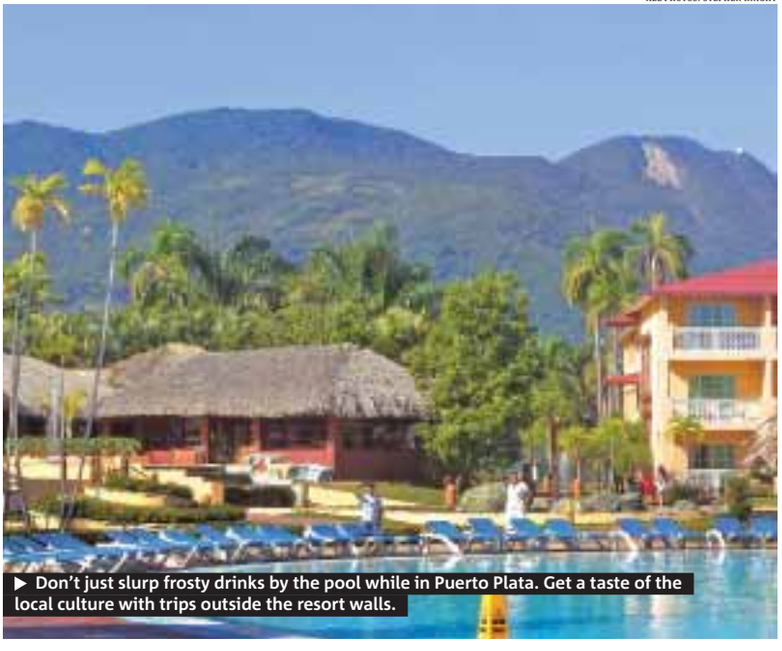
METRO

Escape the resort

The beach and a trashy novel are great for a few days, but when tanning gets old, you might want to see what's outside the resort walls Puerto Plata's It Zone has the answer

STEPHEN KNIGHT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ALL PHOTOS: STEPHEN KNIGHT



Don't just slurp frosty drinks by the pool while in Puerto Plata. Get a taste of the local culture with trips outside the resort walls.

We could all use a little quality time in the sun and a dip in the ocean, especially as another long Canadian winter approaches.

But if you're like some of the thousands of Canadian travellers who flock to this Caribbean island nation of 10 million people each year, you want the all-inclusive travel experience to be about more than just sitting around the resort all day with the latest Danielle Steel/John Grisham novel.

That's where the It Zone comes in. Launched in November by Nolitours (a member of Transat A.T. Inc.), the It Zone is designed for travellers to Puerto Plata who enjoy the home base of an all-inclusive resort — ours was the scenic Be Live Grand Marien — but who are eager to get in touch with the local culture, try some outdoor adventure activities and check out the nightlife beyond sports highlights at the hotel bar.

Eat

A recent tour gave a group of Canadian journalists a close-up glimpse of life outside the perimeter, but first we had to fuel up with an intimate dinner at chef Rafael Vásquez Heinsen's Mares Restaurant and Lounge. Vásquez Heinsen's shaded backyard terrace serves as the main dining area, and the lobster is fresh from the ocean that day.

Monkey business

The next day, a short drive outside Puerto Plata, in Sosua, is the Monkey Jungle, run by the husband and wife team of Chuck and Candy Ritzen. The American ex-pats have hit on an innovative business model that contributes to the economy, creates jobs and provides some basic dental and health care to the local population.

Monkey Jungle is home to 15 protected squirrel monkeys and six Capuchin monkeys, with a care provider who was formerly with the Toronto Zoo.

You can walk through the squirrel monkey habitat and the curious simians just hop on your shoulders for a ride. It's the first time I've literally had a monkey on my back.

You can also zip-line through seven stations totaling 4,400 feet and, before the last zip, descend on a cable from a platform into a cave; sort of like zip-lining, but vertically. The Ritzens have a self-sustaining operation where they use the profits from the zip-lining and monkey jungle activities to fund the health clinic on the premises.

Sustainable tourism

The idea of sustainable tourism has also been taken up by tour companies. Transat A.T. Inc. partners with SOS Children's Villages, which provides caring, village-style group homes for orphaned, abused or abandoned children.

We were given a tour of the village in Santiago de los Caballeros, about an hour from Puerto Plata. The smiling kids were curious, and a spontaneous game of baseball, the national sports obsession, broke out using a stick and a ball of rolled-up tinfoil.

The SOS Children's Villages provides group homes for orphaned children.

If you go...

- Nolitours offers the It Zone through resorts in the Dominican Republic. Visit itzone.nolitours.com for more information.

Go big, or go home

If it's true you have to go big or go home, then Ocean World is a must-see before you head back to the Great White North.

Open since 2004, the massive ocean-side complex features interactive activities with dolphins, sharks and stingrays as well as exhibits with everything from tigers to toucans.

In terms of size, the place filters six million litres of seawater an hour.

And, if you like a touch of Las Vegas with your sun holiday, then Ocean World has you covered with its full-service casino, disco lounge, and Bravissimo, a glittery song-and-dance revue with more costume changes than a Paris catwalk.

Now put that book down and go!

3 life

Travel in brief

A new 200-kilometre highway in the Dominican Republic, from the capital Santo Domingo to tourist hot spot Punta Cana, will make it easier for visitors to explore the Caribbean country.
The divided highway, which has been under construction for the last four years, was completed earlier this year from Santo Domingo to La Romana on the south coast, significantly reducing travel times between the two cities.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revitalized neighbourhood in downtown Montreal wins Phoenix Award.

Drink of the week

Hail Caesar

You'll be hard-pressed to find a Caesar outside of Canada, but here it's practically our national drink (it's also great for brunch). And while tomato juice and clam broth might sound like unlikely bedfellows, Clamato is an endlessly adaptable base. The classic Caesar calls for vodka and a celery salt rim, but go ahead and cross the Rubicon with some bold experimentation. Try making one with gin or tequila, add fresh horseradish or beef broth, and garnish with celery, spicy beans or even a chicken wing.

- 1.5 oz bourbon whisky
- 6 dashes Tabasco Sauce
- 6 dashes Worcestershire sauce
- .25 oz lemon juice
- dash of olive brine
- Orange slices
- Clamato, to top

In a highball rimmed with Jamaican jerk spice and filled with ice, add all ingredients but Clamato. Top with Clamato, and stir.

JOE HOWELL, TORONTO-BASED MIXOLOGIST AND BARTENDER

Bite into French Toast's savoury side

While this treat is usually drizzled with maple syrup, it can also be served in a savoury sandwich

ONTARIO EGG FARMERS

▶ This recipe makes four servings.

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Each bite of this Pizza Stuffed French Toast will give you the gooey taste of pizza in a sandwich. The egg and cheese mixture adds great flavour that kicks up a classic.

Ingredients:

- 10 slices (1/2 inch/1 cm thick) Italian loaf
- 1/3 cup (80 mL) pizza sauce
- 35 slices pepperoni
- Half green pepper, thinly sliced
- 3 mushrooms, thinly sliced (optional)
- 10 slices mozzarella
- 4 eggs
- 1/3 cup (80 mL) milk
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried oregano leaves
- Pinch each salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) butter

Preparation:

1. Spread bread slices with pizza sauce. Top half with 1 slice of the mozzarella, then pepperoni, pepper and mushrooms, if using. Place remaining cheese on top. Top with remaining bread slices; set aside.
2. In shallow dish, whisk together eggs, milk, cheese, oregano, salt and pepper. Dip sandwiches into egg mixture, turning to soak up the egg mixture.
3. In non-stick skillet, melt butter over medium heat and cook sandwiches, turning once for about 4 minutes per side or until brown and crisp and cheese is melted.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/ ONTARIO EGG FARMERS

PICKING OUT THE PROPER LAWYER

Remember that there is no such thing as a 'free' consultation

ISTOCK

▶ A win in court starts with selecting the right lawyer.

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

"Lawyers are the only persons in whom ignorance of the law is not punished."
- Jeremy Bentham (1748 - 1832)

How do you win in court? It starts with selecting the proper lawyer. But with countless factors to consider, finding the ideal lawyer to navigate your case can be overwhelming. Here are three cautionary tales.

Advertising

A lawyer's search engine rankings have nothing to do with his or her legal skill. Rather, Internet-based advertising allows lawyers to pay for and then snatch up high rankings on Google that are not indicative of the quality of the lawyer or her firm. Similarly, there are no rules limiting lawyers without much experience in employment law from professing that they practise it, on their websites and in the media, and they often do.

Free consultations

Some lawyers advertise "free" consultations. These can be a sham. A free consultation is usually nothing more than a bait and switch tactic, designed to get you in the door and then convince you to spend money for any substantive work performed afterward.

Oral agreements

The biggest problem most people face with lawyers is their billing practices. This is because the regulatory bodies that oversee lawyers have few restrictions governing how they charge for their work. Lawyers are often left to their own devices, charging clients based on any combination of their time spent or the result obtained. If asked, a lawyer should predict to the best of his or her ability the potential costs of your case. Then confirm that arrangement in writing.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.

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RED RIVER COLLEGE

Career advice from a Headhuntress

High-profile headhunter and reality TV star Wendy Doulton shares her top job-hunting tips with Metro

MONICA WEYMOUTH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK IMAGES

▶ Target the right job with Doulton's job-hunting tips.

A meeting with Wendy Doulton isn't easy to come by.

As a headhunter for high-profile clients such as Amazon, Gap and Sony, she's responsible for finding the best talent to fill positions that command paychecks beginning in the six figures.

Viewers got a sneak peek into what Doulton's looking for in a Fortune 500 executive when her Bravo special, The Headhuntress, aired this week.

While she's the perfect reality star — successful, intense and quick — she was more than gracious when we asked her to share some career advice.

Here's how to land on Doulton's radar.

Know what you offer

"My foundational coaching is to know who you are and know what you bring to the party," says Doulton. "Pay very close attention to anything that affects your mood — positively or negatively — and let that inform you."

Interview your interviewer

Interviews go both ways. "The trick here isn't to answer the question right, it's to get the job that's right for you," she says. "It's like a date: 'Does he like me, does he like me?' Well, do you like him? Do you want to have coffee and breakfast with him every day of your life?"

Be positive

The poor job market makes headlines, but Doulton hasn't seen a dip in business. "I'm recruiting for companies all the time. Attitude is everything — if you want to sit around and say, 'There are no jobs out there,' you'll be right."

Answer the question

Even if you don't have the right answer to an interviewer's question, get to the point — and don't take your time.

"Don't skirt around the question. People do that all the time, even when they do have a good answer. And I think it's because they have these things that they think they need to say."

And answer it honestly

It's important to come across as genuine and put things out in the open before you get offered a position that isn't right for you.

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4 sports

Pierce says he's ready

- After testing sprained knee, Bombers QB says he has no doubt he'll be able to start
- Coach says he'll need to see Pierce more in practice before he makes decision on top job

Buck Pierce has accomplished more than most people thought he would by returning to the field after dislocating the elbow of his throwing arm last year.

Now the Winnipeg Blue Bombers quarterback is aiming to cap his comeback by leading his team to the Grey Cup with a victory over the visiting Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Sunday's CFL East Division Final.

After testing his sprained knee while wearing a brace at yesterday's practice, Pierce said he feels "really, really good" and has no doubt he'll be ready to start and continue a season he's proud of.

"There was a lot of people doubting me going into the year, that I'd even be able to lead this team to the playoffs," said Pierce, who turned 30 yesterday.

"We've done that. I'm excited about another opportunity to help this organization get to a place it hasn't been in a long time."

Winnipeg hasn't won the Grey Cup since 1990. It last played in the championship game in 2007 and lost to Saskatchewan.

The last time the Bombers hosted the division final was in 2001, when they beat Hamilton and then lost to Calgary in the Grey Cup.

Bombers head coach Paul LaPolice said he'll need to see Pierce practise more this week before he anoints him the starter ahead of Alex Brink.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Buck Pierce says he will be ready to play against Hamilton on Sunday.

Pierce has had his share of injury woes. Last season he was sidelined after dislocating the elbow of his right arm in a Sept. 5 game against Saskatchewan.

After consulting experts, a decision was made to put Pierce on an aggressive rehabilitation plan that Bombers head athletic therapist Alain Couture admitted in training camp was "a bit of an experiment."

Couture said yesterday he's still a bit amazed at how successful the experiment turned out.

16
Number of games started by Buck Pierce this season, a career high. Last season he only started five games.

"I have a very large sense of pride in it, as he does as well and he should," Couture said.

"I'm proud of what he's been able to accomplish."

Pierce hasn't lit up the scoreboard or stats sheets this year, finishing the regular season completing 261 of 411 pass attempts for 3,348 yards with 14 touchdowns and a league-high 18 interceptions.

LaPolice looked beyond numbers when he assessed how well Pierce did this season and what he means to the 10-8 team that's rebounded from last year's league-low 4-14 record.

"Buck Pierce has been our leader for a majority of the season, if not all the season, and he got his team to first place," LaPolice said.

"I think quarterbacks are measured not only in stats, but also what they do, how they get teams to win games, and that's certainly what he's done."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

The Baltimore Orioles are going retro in 2012, bringing back the cartoon bird for their caps as part of a uniform change for the upcoming season.

The new cartoon bird head utilizes elements from the 1970 and 1983 versions. The home cap will feature the bird head on a white front panel with a black back and orange bill and button. The road caps will feature the bird on black with an orange bill and button.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan code for more sports news.

Verlander unanimous pick for Cy Young

There was little question Justin Verlander would unanimously win the AL Cy Young Award. Now, the far more intriguing question: Will he take the MVP, too?

"Do I think it's possible? Yes. Would I like to win it? Of course," he said during a conference call. "It's kind of a weird scenario."

No starting pitcher has won the MVP trophy since Roger Clemens in 1986, with Dennis Eckersley the last reliever to get it in 1992. Many say pitchers shouldn't win the MVP, period, contending they already have their own award.

"Since the end of the season, people have been saying that the Cy Young is wrapped up."
JUSTIN VERLANDER

But Verlander's season — he won the pitching version of the Triple Crown, led Detroit to its first division crown in 24 years and drew every first-place vote yesterday in the Cy Young race — has ratcheted up the debate in a crowded MVP field that includes Curtis Granderson, Jacoby Ellsbury, Jose Bautista, Miguel Cabrera and more.

"Pitchers are on the ballot," Verlander said. Bolstering the case for all pitchers, Verlander pointed to the "tremendous effect we have on the day of our game."

"I'm so different from everybody," he said.

If he doesn't win, Verlander said he'd like to see Granderson, his former teammate, get the award.

Verlander breezed to the Cy Young, much the way the Tigers' ace humbled hitters with his 100 m.p.h. fastball, sharp curve and wicked slider.

Verlander led the majors in wins by going 24-5 and topped baseball with 250 strikeouts. His 2.40 ERA was the best among AL pitchers who qualified for the title.

The 28-year-old righty was listed on top on all 28 ballots by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America and finished with 196 points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Engine

The 2012 ZL1's supercharged 6.2-litre V-8 — a variation of the engines found in the Corvette ZR1 and Cadillac CTS-V — is mated to a six-speed manual transmission and dynos at 580 horsepower and 556 pound-feet of torque. This makes it the most powerful production Camaro ever built and, Chevrolet proclaims, will be the most powerful Chevy droptop ever.

The ZL1 constitutes much more than just unbridled horsepower, but represents a thoroughly sorted out performance platform where nearly every component has been beefed up or completely redesigned to handle the engine's hefty output.

Cabin

Both driver and their front passenger should have no problems stretching out inside the Camaro's generously sized cabin with its power-adjustable heated leather seats with grippy suede-like inserts. They'll also appreciate the sounds from the dual-mode exhaust system that becomes freer flowing (and louder) when the driver opens the taps a bit.

Suspension

The ZL1's suspension employs GM's Magnetic Ride Control, which uses special shock dampers that constantly vary the degree of firmness, according to road and driving conditions.

There are also Tour (soft) and Sport (firmer) settings that the driver can dial in. Most of the remaining suspension components have either been strengthened or swapped out.

▶ Often when companies dig out sacred names from the past, they're stuck to inferior cars that disappoint. Not here.

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Pony power

It's your move, Mustang and Challenger. The new Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 has got your number, or more correctly, has beaten your best horsepower numbers ... by a lot.

How does the high-performance ZL1 coupe and convertible square with General Motors' greenification program of introducing fuel-sipping electrics, hybrids plus a couple of new ankle-biter sub-compacts?

Well, the eco trend is definitely here to stay, but at the opposite end of the oil barrel, GM's cornerstone division isn't neglecting its involvement in the muscle/ponycar bracket. Although relatively small, the pedal-to-the-metal gunfighter class remains unequivocal in its No Imports Allowed policy.

And in this club the numero uno bylaw states that horsepower rules and absolute horsepower rules absolutely, or at least until another club member ups the ante and overthrows the leader.

The 2011 edition of the Chevrolet Camaro's SS model was rated at 426 horsepower and was certainly nothing to be sneezed at.

But it couldn't catch a cold next to the Dodge Challenger's SRT8 392 that generated 470 horses from its 6.4-litre "Hemi" V-8 engine. That goes double for Ford Mustang-based Shelby GT500's 550 ponies that emanate from a supercharged 5.4-litre V-8.

With bragging rights on the line, you just had to know that Chevrolet would eventually retaliate.

5 drive

By comparison

Mustang Shelby GT500
Base price: $60,700
Well turned-out high-performance coupe or convertible is ZL1's main rival.

Dodge Challenger SRT8
Base price: $50,500
A Mopar fan favourite that's no slouch in the power department.

Cadillac CTS-V coupe
Base price: $73,000
Great-looking, ultra-quick Caddy that shares its powerplant with the ZL1.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

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metro

Final-gen GM minivans should offer reliability

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

For many shoppers, the minivan delivers the ultimate in bang-for-the-buck when it comes to moving a family around.

At General Motors, the Chevrolet Uplander and Pontiac Montana SV6 were the most recent offerings to the minivan-seeking masses.

Though cosmetically different, the underlying hardware in the Uplander and Montana were basically identical.

The following information, therefore, applies to both.

2005 to 2009 Pontiac Montana/Chevrolet Uplander

▶ 2005 Pontiac Montana SV6

Engine

Power came from one of two V-6 engines: a 3.5-litre with 200 horsepower, or a 3.9-litre with 240. A four-speed automatic transmission was standard and All Wheel Drive was available.

What owners like

Most owners report a comfortable highway ride, smooth performance, plenty of interior space and a flexible cargo and passenger compartment layout. Gas mileage is rated strongly, relatively speaking.

What owners dislike

Complaints tend to include interior squeaking, rattling and trim wear as the vehicles age, as well as bland and uninspired styling.

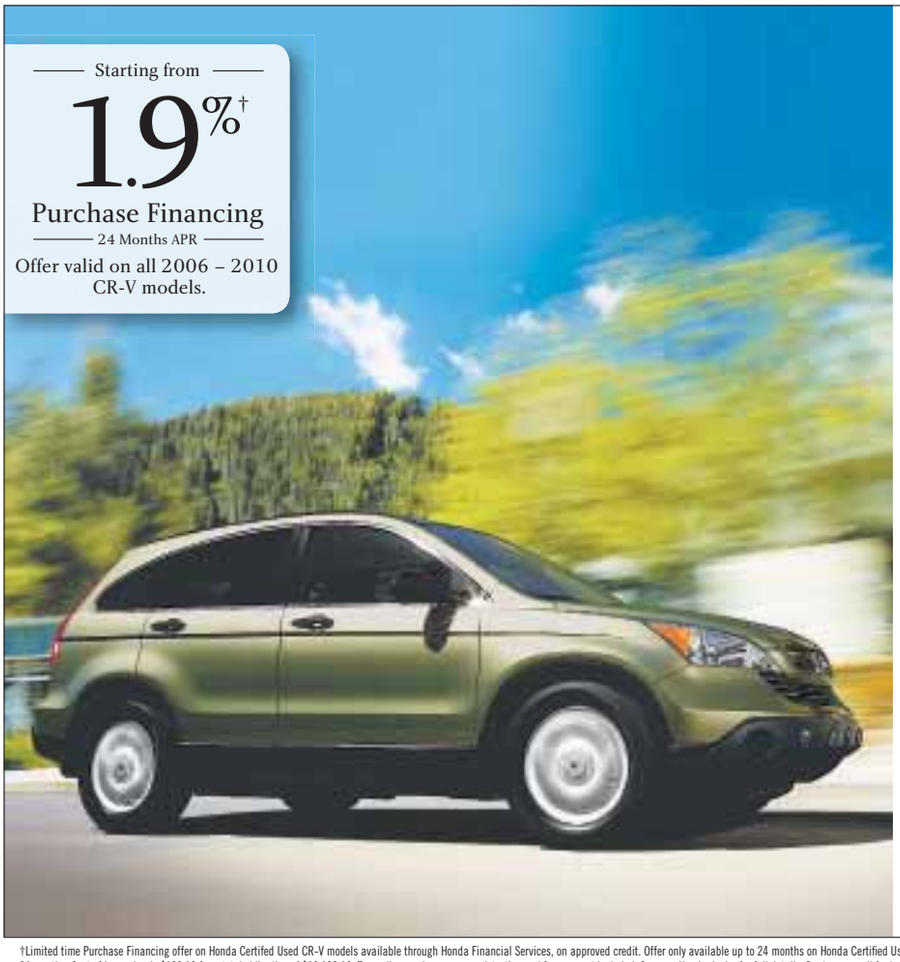
Common issues

Problems stated with the newer GM minivan powerplants seem few and far between — and are mainly sensor related. If the engine and transmission's service requirements have been adhered to, if it runs smoothly and if no "check engine" lights are illuminated, you're well on your way. Be sure to "feel" for any transmission slipping — and avoid any model that exhibits it.

Avoid models with power sliding doors. These can be an expensive hassle when they fail.

Verdict

A well-maintained Uplander or Montana should be a machine from which owners can expect solid powertrain reliability, plenty of space and affordable pricing in the used market.



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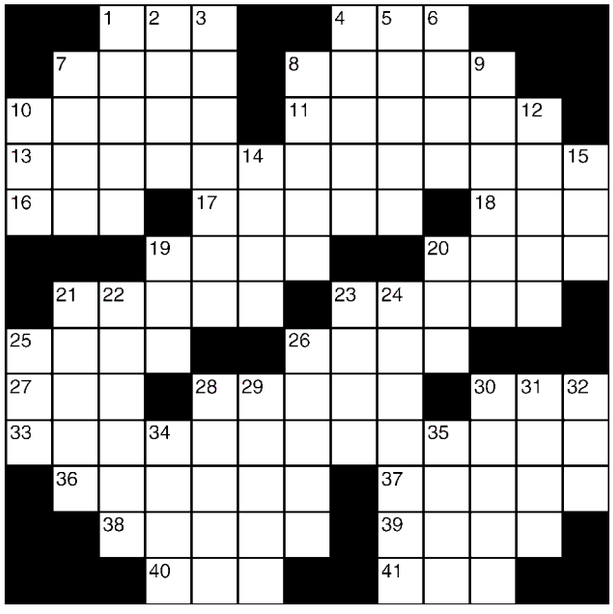
†Limited time Purchase Financing offer on Honda Certifed Used CR-V models available through Honda Financial Services, on approved credit. Offer only available up to 24 months on Honda Certified Used Honda models (2006-2010 model years). Finance example based on 2006 CR-V models: $10,000 at 1.9% per annum equals $424.96 per month for 24 months. Cost of borrowing is $199.12 for a total obligation of $10,199.12. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and fees are not included. See your Honda dealer for full details. Dealer may sell for less. Additional financing offers available on 36, 48, 60 and 72 months. Offer expires December 31, 2011.

Crossword



Across

1 "Bam!"
4 Altar affirmative
7 Consequently
8 Dodge
10 Decorate
11 Eateries
13 Good thing with a bad element
16 Pigpen
17 Beethoven's "Für — "
18 Slithery squeezer
19 Chow
20 Galley supply
21 Nervous
23 Move laterally
25 Humdinger
26 Finished
27 — Baba
28 Accumulate
30 Witticism
33 Ambivalence of a sort
36 Sir Isaac who developed a shorthand method
37 Finish
38 Archaeologists' meccas
39 Best pocket pair
40 "Monty Python" opener
41 Beavers' creation

Down

1 Substitute
2 Shrek is one
3 Is curious (about)
4 Wall-climbing plants
5 Thickly populated
6 Mined-over matters
7 Rewrite, maybe
8 Forgo the cue cards
9 — Council ("Survivor" meeting)
10 Mornings (Abbr.)
12 Sleep soundly?
14 Sad
15 Petrol
19 Wildebeest
20 Praise in verse
21 Dutch flower
22 Panacea
23 Mediocre
24 As an alternative
25 Felon's flight
26 Curses
28 Fess up
29 Wherewithal
30 Web surfer's need
31 Responsibility
32 Recipe meas.
34 Needle case
35 Bygone Peruvian

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	L	A	Y		F	D	A		G	A	M	E
P	U	P	A		I	A	N		A	D	A	M
E	X	E	C		T	H	A	L	L	I	U	M
W	E	S	H	A	L	L		A	P	T	L	Y
			T	R	Y		O	V	A			
C	R	O	S	S		S	H	A	L	L	O	T
B	A	R			G	E	M			I	R	E
S	H	A	L	L	O	W		B	A	S	T	E
			O	U	T		C	A	D			
O	L	E	O	S		C	H	A	L	L	A	H
M	A	R	S	H	A	L	L		I	O	T	A
E	D	G	E		C	O	O		B	R	O	S
N	E	O	N		E	Y	E		S	E	P	T

Sudoku

			2	9		1	3	8
				1			6	5
		6				4		
3			8				9	
		2				5		
	5				4			7
		4				6		
9	6			5				
5	8	3		4	7			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	4	6	3	8	7	2	9	5
2	9	5	6	4	1	3	7	8
7	8	3	9	5	2	6	1	4
8	1	4	7	2	5	9	3	6
6	3	7	1	9	4	5	8	2
9	5	2	8	3	6	1	4	7
4	6	1	5	7	3	8	2	9
5	2	8	4	1	9	7	6	3
3	7	9	2	6	8	4	5	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Birthday Boy, Happy belated. Watching you take care of the 4 legged visitor on the counter made me realize how we could not live in the AB'TOS without you although maybe if you cleaned better it would not be necessary - cheers! **BSMTDWELLER**

MyOneTrueLove, i love waking up to you every morning and goin to bed together, these past two months have been the best 2 months and i cant wait to spend many more months with you. You keep me smiling from ear to ear and thats what i love about you, you excite me and make me laugh when i am down. i hope we are together for a long time. **THELOVEOFMYLIFE**

Holdent, Hope your Birthday is AMAZING & full of m-m-m-maybach music! Go Boston! <3 **BELA MAFIA**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	THURSDAY
Min -5°	Min -11°	Min -12°
Max -1°	Max -4°	Max -7°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 With Mars, your ruler, on excellent terms with expansive Jupiter today, there is nothing you cannot accomplish.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You won't lack for courage or confidence today, but make sure they are both well directed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you promised to do something for a loved one then you must see it through to completion.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Don't waste precious time thinking of what might have been. Start being amazing today. Live for now.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 The planets suggest that if you make an effort, the results will astonish you.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Don't waste time worrying about whether or not you are doing the right thing. If it feels right to you, that's all that matters.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If there is something you should have finished but never got round to completing, have a second crack at it.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You can sense that if you want to make changes now is the time to get busy. So don't wait, get to it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 With Mars and your ruler Jupiter on good terms over the next 24 hours, you can overcome fears.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't waste time on tasks that can be done with your brain stuck in neutral. Be bold and brilliant.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 What you start over the next two or three days will bring great success in the very near future.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. It'll be easy to lose your sense of perspective in the next 24 hours. Control emotions. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN GOMES, ALASKA ZOO/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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